(c) the commercial viability of this scheme and by when it is likely to be put to actual use and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) BHEL has developed a mobile plant based on reverse osmosis process which removes not only salt from the brackish water but also harmful matter and bacteria, thereby turning it into safe and healthy potable water.

(c) BHEL has already supplied two mobile plants of 15,000 litres/day and three stationary plants of 50,000 litres/day. BHEL has got some more orders in hand.

Production of automobile parts in India by West German car manufacturers

3470. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several West German car manufacturers are exploring the possibility of producing automobile parts in India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether some West German firms' proposals in this regard have since been agreed to and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) While the West German car manufacturers are exploring the possibility of sourcing automobile parts from India, no concrete proposals have so far been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Optic fair India 88

3471. SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an optice fair-India-88 was held recently in the country to focus attention on India's progress in this field and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that the ophthalmic and lens industry is largely dependent on imports; and

(c) what is the total annual market for optical industry and how much of the demand of this industry has been met through indigenous manufacture and how much through imports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Optics Fair International '88 was held from 20th to 22nd February, 1988 in New Delhi. Apart from general and technical sessions, an exhibition was held of the latest products in lenses, spectacle frames, optical instruments, machinery, tools, accessories etc. both manufactured in India and abroad.

(b) Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking, is currently manufacturing only flint buttons made of glass. However, as the production is not adequate, the item is permitted to be imported on restricted basis. The import of ophthalmic blanks is currently allowed under OGL. Some units in organised sector recently commenced production of plastic blank (CR-39) in the country.

(c) No study has been made for the total annual market for ophthalmic in the country. However, as per a study made by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, the DGTD Panel of Glass & Glassware Industry has projected the demand for ophthalmic lenses to the tune of 1809 MT for 1988. The total imports of optical instruments and apparatus and optical goods from 1983-84 to 1985-86 are as follows:—

Year	Value in Rs. lakhs
1983-84	157192
1984-85	1376 26
198586	1631.96